Remarks

Claims 1-39 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-30 are rejected. Claims 31-39 are newly added. Claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 9-12, 15-17, 19, 21, 23-26, 29, and 30 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a), a three-month extension of time is submitted herewith to extend the due date of the response to the Office Action dated August 27, 2003 for the above-identified patent application from November 27, 2003 through and including February 27, 2004. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.17(a)(3), authorization to charge a deposit account in the amount of $950.00 to cover this extension of time request also is submitted herewith. In addition, an authorization to charge a deposit account for the newly added claims in submitted herewith.

Applicants respectfully traverse the objections to the specification and Claims 2, 7-16, 18, and 22. Applicants submit "Power Builder" with a space between Power and Builder is different than "PowerBuilder" without a space between Power and Builder. Moreover, Applicants submit that the specification describes Power Builder by describing functionality of the Power Builder. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Power Builder described in the present application is different from the "PowerBuilder" product of Sybase. For at least the reasons mentioned above, Applicants respectfully request that the objections to the specification and Claims 2, 7-16, 18, and 22 be withdrawn.

The rejection of Claims 1-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Salas et al. (U.S. Patent 5,862,391) is respectfully traversed.

Salas et al. describe a power management control system (column 1, lines 5-6). The system includes a software for monitoring and controlling selected aspects of power usage/consumption (column 11, lines 19-21). The software is loaded into a computer and includes a dynamic data exchange (DDE) server (152) (column 11, lines 22-23). The DDE server allows external programs to access power management data in a Microsoft Windows environment (column 11, lines 24-25). The DDE server uses a Modbus RTU protocol to communicate with a field device (column 24, lines 52-53). The DDE server has to poll these devices continuously and get the required

data for a client (column 24, lines 53-54). Communication parameters are set up during configuration defining what communication is to be carried out (column 24, lines 55-57). No initialization before communicating to the devices is necessary (column 24, lines 58-59). In the system, a CONFIGURATION button is selected on a SERVER WINDOWS APPLICATION--SERVER screen generating a menu from which DEVICE INFO is selected (column 23, lines 12-15). Selection of DEVICE INFO generates a DEVICE CONFIGURATION screen (column 23, lines 15-16). From the DEVICE CONFIGURATION screen, configuration of a new device (ADD), modification of an existing device (MODIFY), or deletion of an existing device (DELETE) can be selected (column 23, lines 17-20). Selection of the ADD button generates an ADD DEVICE CONFIGURATION screen (column 23, lines 20-22, Figure 41). The ADD DEVICE CONFIGURATION screen includes a device name, com port, device type, slave add, and a scan interval (FIG. 41). Selection of the MODIFY button generates a MODIFY DEVICE CONFIGURATION screen (column 23, lines 22-24). Selection of the DELETE button will result in the device information for that device being deleted (column 23, lines 24-25). After configuration is set, a SERVER button is selected on the SERVER WINDOWS APPLICATION--SERVER screen generating a menu from which RUN is selected, bringing the server on-line and disabling the configuration option (column 24, lines 16-20).

Claim 1 recites a method for adding devices to a power management control system, the method comprising the steps of "prompting a user to create a new project; prompting the user to add devices to the new project; executing a file to automatically configure the devices; generating screens for the devices added to the project; and automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the devices and the screens."

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a method for adding devices to a power management control system, the method including the steps of prompting a user to create a new project, prompting the user to add devices to the new project, executing a file to automatically configure the devices, generating screens for the devices added to the project, and automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the devices and the screens.

Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the devices and the screens. Rather, Salas et al. describe selecting configuration of a new device from the DEVICE CONFIGURATION screen and selecting RUN on the SERVER WINDOWS APPLICATION--SERVER screen after setting the configuration. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest automatically updating a configuration. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 1 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 2-6 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1. When the recitations of Claims 2-6 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claims 2-6 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 7 recites a power control management system comprising "a control computer; at least one intelligent end device interfaced to said control computer for controlling and monitoring power; and a software package to control said system comprising a user interface, an applications layer, an operating system and a Power Builder for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected intelligent end devices to said power management control system, said Power Builder configured to build external applications onto a power management control project framework, automatically create points associated with said selected intelligent end devices and generate main menu screens for said selected intelligent end devices, wherein said software package is configured to automatically update a configuration of at least one of said selected intelligent end devices, said points, and said screens."

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a power control management system including a control computer, at least one intelligent end device interfaced to the control computer for controlling and monitoring power, and a software package to control the system including a user interface, an applications layer, an operating system and a Power Builder for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected intelligent end devices to said power management control system, the Power Builder configured to build external applications onto a power management control project framework, automatically create points associated with the selected intelligent end devices and generate main menu screens for the selected intelligent end devices, where the software package is configured to automatically update a

configuration of at least one of the selected intelligent end devices, the points, and the screens.

Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a software package configured to automatically update a configuration of at least one of the selected intelligent end devices, the points, and the screens. Rather, Salas et al. describe selecting configuration of a new device from the DEVICE CONFIGURATION screen and selecting RUN on the SERVER WINDOWS APPLICATION--SERVER screen after setting the configuration. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest the software package configured to automatically update a configuration. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 7 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 8-16 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 7. When the recitations of Claims 8-16 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 7, Applicants submit that Claims 8-16 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 17 recites a computer programmed to "prompt a user to create a project; prompt the user to select devices to be added to the project; configure the selected devices; generate screens for the selected devices; and automatically update a configuration of at least one of the selected devices and the screens."

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer programmed to prompt a user to create a project, prompt the user to select devices to be added to the project, configure the selected devices, generate screens for the selected devices, and automatically update a configuration of at least one of the selected devices and the screens.

Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer programmed to automatically update a configuration of at least one of the selected devices and the screens. Rather, Salas et al. describe selecting configuration of a new device from the DEVICE CONFIGURATION screen and selecting RUN on the SERVER WINDOWS APPLICATION--SERVER screen after setting the configuration. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a computer programmed to automatically update a configuration. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 17 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 18-20 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 17. When the recitations of Claims 18-20 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 17, Applicants submit that Claims 18-20 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

Claim 21 recites a method for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected devices to a power management control system, the method comprising the steps of "building an external application onto a project framework, wherein said building comprises: automatically configuring components associated with devices; generating main menu screens for the devices; and automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the components and the devices."

Salas et al. do not describe or suggest a method for facilitating automated addition and configuration of user selected devices to a power management control system, the method including the steps of building an external application onto a project framework, where the building includes automatically configuring components associated with devices, generating main menu screens for the devices, and automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the components and the devices.

Specifically, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest automatically updating a configuration of at least one of the components and the devices. Rather, Salas et al. describe selecting configuration of a new device from the DEVICE CONFIGURATION screen and selecting RUN on the SERVER WINDOWS APPLICATION--SERVER screen after setting the configuration. Accordingly, Salas et al. do not describe or suggest automatically updating a configuration. For the reasons set forth above, Claim 21 is submitted to be patentable over Salas et al.

Claims 22-30 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 21. When the recitations of Claims 22-30 are considered in combination with the recitations of Claim 21, Applicants submit that Claims 22-30 likewise are patentable over Salas et al.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request that the Section 102 rejection of Claims 1-30 be withdrawn.

Newly added Claims 31-33 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 1, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance and is patentable over the cited art. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 31-33 are also patentable over the cited art.
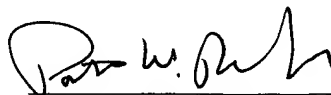
Newly added Claims 34-35 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 7, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance and is patentable over the cited art. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 34-35 are also patentable over the cited art.

Newly added Claims 36-37 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 17, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance and is patentable over the cited art. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 36-37 are also patentable over the cited art.

Newly added Claims 38-39 depend, directly or indirectly, from independent Claim 21, which is submitted to be in condition for allowance and is patentable over the cited art. For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 38-39 are also patentable over the cited art.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, all the claims now active in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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